

21/12/2022

Description of the face to face course in Translating Science into Policy and practice-2023

Introduction: Research and researchers have important roles to play in promoting agriculture for food security. To achieve food security we need to take into account all social, ecological and economic dimensions of smallholder agriculture, and – in the context of AgriFoSe2030’s specific areas of work – also the key challenges: 1.Improving access to safe and nutritious food; 2.Enhancing agricultural productivity and maintaining ecosystem functions; 3. Science –based innovation and extension, and 4. Supporting smallholder agriculture within transforming food systems. Agricultural researchers can benefit from increased policy engagement and can contribute to improved planning, decision-making and investments on the ground by enhancing their research communication. Researchers can take more or less active roles in outreach work, dissemination of new findings and policy engagement. Their personal motivation, their institutional context, and networks constitute important factors for their outreach work.

Aim of the course: Strengthening individual skills and capacities, and national and regional networks, for enhanced policy engagement and science-based influence for sustainable development.

Course plan: The course consists of a preparatory phase (one digital meeting), a concentrated course (face to face- three days in Uganda) and a follow-up phase (half day digital meeting). The following themes will be included in the course:

1. Research and policy linkages: what can we learn from history?
2. The role of research and researchers: opportunities for engagement
3. Understanding the policy landscape
4. Models and strategies for stakeholder interaction and policy engagement
5. Tools for engagement: science communication in practice (press release, elevator speech, policy brief, stakeholder mapping, social media)
6. Planning for and measuring Impact of research on stakeholder interaction and policy engagement

In addition to attending lectures, group work and discussions, participants are expected to work individually before, during and after the concentrated training events with short assignments. The course will be based on a mix of lectures, researchers’ presentations, literature seminars and assignments. The participants will link issues presented during the course to their own research work and to the reality in different countries or policy contexts. Knowledge sharing and sharing of their own experiences are important elements of the course.

Practical assignments to be performed are:

1. Formulate a “research-policy interaction plan” based on own research. This includes a mapping of the research-specific policy landscape, potential stakeholders and a plan for when and how to engage with different stakeholders;
2. Learn how to use practical tools for effective research communication
3. Write a policy brief or press release based on own research
4. Make short oral presentations of research findings

To pass the course participants must attend all scheduled hours and perform all practical assignments. All study material will be published on the Canvas educational platform, which will be available throughout the course. The facilitators will be available both digitally and physically for questions or support throughout the course time. A detailed schedule will be shared before the course starts.

Course date: The face to face engagement of the course will be held from March 27th -29th, 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.

Venue: to be decided

Literature: Articles, textbook chapters, policy reports/briefs, press releases, webpages etc. will be made available before the start of the course on the Canvas platform.

Main text book: Šucha, Vladimír and Sienkiewicz, Marta. (Eds.) 2020. The Science for Policy Handbook. European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Brussels/Belgium. This book is freely available on-line:

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/communities/en/community/evidence4policy/document/science-policy-handbook#:~:text=Science%20for%20Policy%20Handbook%20provides,be%20solved%20without%20scientific%20evidence>

Guidance: Slunge Daniel, Olof Drakenberg, Anders Ekbom, Maria Göthberg, Åsa Knaggård and Ullrika Sahlin; 2019; *Stakeholder interaction in research processes – a guide for researchers and research groups*. University of Gothenburg. Available freely on-line:

https://gmw.chalmers.gu.se/digitalAssets/1729/1729931_stakeholderguidedigital.pdf

Learning outcomes: At the end of the course, the participants will be able to:

- Present scientific results and tentative policy recommendations aimed at a given target group
- Understand and describe their roles in policy making processes
- Present an overview of the policy landscape relevant to their research, possible research-policy Linkages and different models for policy engagement, including use of social media – all with a focus on their own research field
- Perform a stakeholder mapping and analysis
- Formulate and present a research-to-policy plan and/or a policy brief/press release

Target group: Researchers within the AgriFoSe2030 programme from Africa, and staff from Kyambogo University.

Participation scope: Maximum 30 participants to attend.

Last day for registration: Jan 27th, 2023.

Contact person: In case of any questions, please contact Judith I Nagasha (judith.nagasha@gmail.com), Madelene Ostwald (madelene.ostwald@liu.se) or Anders Ekbom (anders.ekbom@gu.se)

Organizers: The course is organized by University of Gothenburg, Sweden, within the AgriFoSe2030 programme, in collaboration with Kyambogo University, Uganda.